

FINAL



**WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
June 6, 2005**

PRESENT: LAURA BUONO CHAIRMAN; LEON METHOT, VICE CHAIRMAN; HELEEN KURK, SELECTMAN; DONNA M. OSBORNE, SELECTMAN; JOSEPH M. FIALA, SELECTMAN

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: ROBERT CHRISTENSEN

RECORDING SECRETARY: Cherry Palmisano

GUESTS: Frank Campana, George Malette, Forrest Esenwine, Ginger Esenwine, Donald Burke, Charles F. Meany III, Janet Brown

Chairman Buono moved, Selectman Fiala seconded to come out of non-public session at 6:25 p.m. Passed 5-0-0.

Chairman Buono moved, Selectman Fiala seconded to seal and restrict the minutes of the non-public pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A: 3 III. A roll call vote was taken. Vice Chairman Methot - yes; Selectman Osborne - yes; Selectman Kurk - yes; Selectman Fiala - yes; Chairman Buono - yes. Passed 5-0-0.

6:30 p.m. Chairman Laura Buono called the meeting to order.

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Mr. Frank Campana spoke in regards to the Boards letter sent to DRA requesting \$60,000 for cruiser replacement. Mr. Campana commented that there are 2 Board members that were on the board at the time along with the Ex-Police Chief and asked if there was any plan set in place in the past for the replacement of these vehicles. Mr. Campana feels that there was a failure by the Police Chief at the time and a couple of Board members and a former Selectman to make note and it really bothers him that there was also a failure from the Deputy Police Chief to notify the Board of the need for the vehicle replacements. He would like to ask the Board what was done when these 2 new cars were purchased in order to replace them. Mr. Campana was also concerned that no one from the Police Department came forth at the end of 2004 to expend monies from the surplus at the time. Chairman Buono stated that she does not remember any discussion of the need of the new vehicles and nothing was every brought to the Boards attention as far as she knows. Chairman Buono stated that she should have known about the need for the replacement of these vehicles but unfortunately due to circumstances the communication was not there in the past. DRA might request more information from the Board as to how they got in this situation. Mr. Campana feels that the Deputy Police Chief should have been on top of this situation. Mr. Campana would like to know the surplus of the unreserved Fund Balance at this time. Selectman Kurk stated that Mr. Campana was right in his comments and wanted him to know that the Deputy Chief admitted right in the beginning that financing was not his strength. Mr. Campana stated that even if he doesn't know finances he should have known that if something is wrong with a vehicle then it needs to be addressed. Mr. Campana wants to know that if this expenditure gets approved by DRA then how the rotation will work in the future. Chairman Buono stated that Chief Begin will be rotating the vehicles. Vice Chairman Methot stated that there will be a 3 year vehicle rotation.

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Mr. Campana commented on the budget surplus of last year asking the Board that if a spending freeze last August still left a surplus at the end of last year then why not ask for a spending freeze now to make up for the \$60,000 being requested from DRA for vehicle replacement. Chairman Buono stated that they have changes in Departments and would not be fair at this time to enact a spending freeze. Mr. Campana stated that from day 1 when the used cruisers were purchased then a plan should have been put in place to replace the vehicles.

Mr. Christensen, stated that Bob Anderson called and said that they were looking at the request and would like to get additional documents from him. Selectman Kurk told Mr. Campana that he was right with the fact of the lack of foresight by now it comes down to that we have an emergency because we do not have the vehicles needed to equip the Police Department. Selectman Fiala stated that when Chief Begin brought this to the Board's attention it was considered an emergency and feels that DRA might not consider this an emergency but they had to try to make the attempt with DRA and they did try other avenues before requesting funds from DRA. Mr. Campana wants to state that he knows that this situation is not Chief Begin's fault and that he is only dealing with what he was dealt.

Mr. Forrest Esenwine commented in regards to the 2 cruisers and stated that Chief Rigney didn't want to go back and request funds from the voters at the time and that at the time of purchase they had a normal rotation plan set forth. He feels that there was a plan but it wasn't put in place before Chief Rigney was placed on administrative leave. Chairman Buono stated that the problem was due to the lack of communication.

Mr. Esenwine said that Chief Rigney was placed on leave in November and he knows an investigation was done. Mr. Esenwine questioned the Board as to why Chief Rigney was placed on leave and why he hasn't heard the results of the investigation. Chairman Buono stated that there was an investigation, it came to an end, they reviewed the outcome, and they took the appropriate steps and chose the road that would cost the taxpayers the least. As far as the investigation goes no details will be given by the Board. The Board stated that it is out of their jurisdiction and they have moved on because the voters voted to elect a Police Chief instead of appoint one. Chairman Buono stated that they are done with it at this point and they are not able to comment. Chairman Buono told Mr. Esenwine that he will have to trust that the Board has done what was in the best interest of the town.

2. CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER – Mr. Chip Meany updated the Board that they are now issuing permits and they are into the 2006 numbers. Homeowners are being honest and builders are scrambling to find homeowners to build. There were 37 permits allotted for this year for developers and they are all gone. There were 16 homeowner permits and there are 12 left. Mr. Meany stated that one of the biggest roadblocks is actual ownership of the land and the banks won't issue permits until the people own the land.

Mr. Meany informed the Board that River Road is looking good. He has been involved with the Health Officer with landlord vs. tenant issues as well as in the middle of neighbor vs. neighbor issues. Mr. Meany stated that the overall building environment in the town is healthy.

Selectman Fiala questioned Mr. Meany as to whether or not he has heard anything about the Twin Bridge gravel pit. Mr. Meany commented that what he has heard is they are not going into the gravel business and hopes are there for a subdivision.

It was discussed that an individual is moving gravel above and beyond what is incidental to the building of the house and this needs to be discussed at a later date. Vice Chairman Methot stated that the gravel ordinance is for 5,000 yards and the zoning is very strict because it is a residential lot. Vice Chairman Methot mentioned that this individual has not been to the Planning Board but he does have a building permit and septic. The Board is the one who controls the removal of more than the 5,000 yards to be removed. Mr. Meany stated that at this time the owner can place the house, well, and septic in place with just moving 5000 cu yards but as to whether he wants to do that - he doesn't know. Selectman Kurk stated that the reality right now is that he can remove

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5,000 cubic yards but if he wants to do more than he has to come to the Board. Mr. Meany sent him a letter telling him that he has to submit a site plan to the Board. Selectman Kurk stated that the Board needs to reply to this individual.

Selectman Kurk commented that the Chase Park Gate House was almost completed and ready for inspection.

3. CEMETERY TRUSTEE – Mr. Don Burke stated that this spring has been a challenge due to the weather and they are trying to complete the clean-ups from last fall. Mr. Burke and Mrs. Janet Brown both commented that the individual taking care of the lawns is the best they have ever had. They have caught up on a lot of the problems and CIP projects and placed priorities on the projects that need to be done. Mr. Burke stated that Sugar Hill Cemetery needs a new wall. Mr. Burke feels that the three trustees work well together and get things done. Chairman Buono commented that she appreciates the thought into next year and the need for CIP monies for projects. Mr. Burke said that the fence at Eaton Cemetery will be repaired and painted by the prison inmates. Mr. Burke goes to St. Paul's School to get signs made because the students need to do projects and it saves the town money. Mr. Burke brought forth concerns with the Quaker Cemeteries and that they will need tree work on Thorndike and on Quaker and the town should take over these cemeteries and become responsible for maintaining them. They cannot say enough about Cutting Blade and the quality and extensiveness of his care and he has done an excellent job. They will be going to the Trustees of the Trust funds to see what monies they have available. They are very aware of what needs to be done and they will get it done. Vice Chairman Methot stated that the trustees can recommend that Cutting Blade be granted a 3 year contract. Selectman Kurk commented about Cutting Blade and the overwhelming caring they are putting forth.

4. PUBLIC HEARING on Increasing the Town of Weare Transfer Fees –

Chairman Buono opened the public hearing at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. Carl Knapp stated that televisions and computer monitors can no longer be put in the trash and will now cost \$10 each to dispose of. Mr. Knapp also said that in the past they were able to dispose of 20 pound propane tanks (gas grill size) at no charge but now they will be charging \$2.00 each to dispose of them.

Chairman Buono closed the public hearing at 7:51 p.m.

Chairman Buono moved, Vice Chairman Methot seconded to implement a charge of \$10.00 to dispose of computer monitors and televisions and \$2.00 to dispose of 20lb propane tanks. Passed 5-0-0.

Chairman Buono moved, Vice Chairman Methot seconded, to enter into nonpublic session @ 7:55 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3II(a and c). A roll call vote was taken. Vice Chairman Methot - yes; Selectman Osborne - yes; Selectman Kurk - yes; Selectman Fiala - yes; Chairman Buono - yes. Passed 5-0-0.

Vice Chairman Methot moved, Chairman Buono seconded to come out of non-public session at 8:30 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. Vice Chairman Methot - yes; Selectman Osborne - yes; Selectman Kurk - yes; Selectman Fiala - yes; Chairman Buono - yes. Passed 5-0-0.

Chairman Buono moved, Vice Chairman Methot seconded to seal and restrict the minutes of the non-public pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A: 3 III. A roll call vote was taken. Vice Chairman Methot - yes; Selectman Osborne - yes; Selectman Kurk - yes; Selectman Fiala - yes; Chairman Buono - yes. Passed 5-0-0.

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Chairman Buono moved, Vice Chairman Methot seconded to appoint Benjamin Knapp as temporary Transfer Station Manager at \$15.54 per hour. Passed 5-0-0.

Chairman Buono stated that the reason Benjamin Knapp was hired was because he has a level 3 certification to operate the Transfer Station which is required for the position.

5. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR DISCUSSION – It was determined that this discussion will be placed on the next agenda for June 20, 2005.

6. SAFETY COMPLEX SAFETY ISSUES – Mr. Christensen informed the Board that he held a meeting with Gary Chicone, Chief Begin, and the mechanical contractors to discuss the overhangs. It was discussed that the overhangs would cost just slightly higher to build now then they would have at time of original construction. Mr. Christensen recommends that the Board move forward to authorize the two overhangs.

Mr. Christensen stated that the roof vents were put in according to code and over the winter the snow built up over storms and the exhaust vent was covered. It was determined that in the future the roof will need to be snow raked to alleviate this problem.

Mr. Christensen stated that the two men who own Roto Rooter wrote on the original invoice that something was wrong and said that they should install a high pressure toilet. The gentleman that did the work is convinced that there is not a problem and the problems in the past were caused by waded up paper towels and most recently by baby wipes. A high pressure toilet would cost around \$1,500 the technicians present all agreed that nothing is really wrong or there would have been more problems. Evidence shows that the toilet was installed correctly and that the problem truly is that people need to be more responsible as to what they dispose of in the toilet.

Chairman Buono said that Chief Begin mentioned to her that he would like to keep their building separate from the rest of the town so that they have can keep track of what they spend. So that Police and Fire have separate maintenance budgets and spending. Chairman Buono stated that the cleaning is currently being done by police and fire employees but it needs to be worked into the budget for next year to hire cleaning personnel.

Vice Chairman Methot moved, Chairman Buono seconded to authorize the expenditure of \$2,000 for the purpose of constructing two overhangs at the Safety Complex with the money to come from the Government Building's Fund. Passed 5-0-0.

7. MANIFESTS

Chairman Buono moved, Selectman Kurk seconded to authorize the Board of Selectman to sign Manifests and order the Treasurer to sign checks dated June 9, 2005. Passed 5-0-0.

Accounts payable	\$
Gross Payrolls	<u>\$31,241.86</u>
Total	\$31,241.86

8. MEETING MINUTES –

Chairman Buono moved, Vice Chairman Methot seconded to approve minutes of April 18, 2005 as amended. Passed 5-0-0.

Chairman Buono moved, Selectman Kurk seconded to approve minutes of May 2, 2005 as amended. Passed 5-0-0.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – Mr. Christensen distributed copies of the cover page for the health insurance which included breakdowns with new deductibles. Chairman Buono asked how much the current plan increased and Mr. Christensen stated that he didn't have the differential information right now. Selectman Kurk said that it was anticipated that it would go up 26%. In response to Vice Chairman Methot's question Mr. Christensen stated that the employees currently are on the MBT5 plan. It was discussed that copays will increase but Vice Chairman Methot feels that the employees would probably rather see their copays increase then to switch to a different plan and possibly have less coverage. The Board requested additional copies of the information of different plans from Mr. Christensen.

Chairman Buono stated that they received two legal proposals; one from Wadley Star and Peters - current representation for the past 5 years and one from Mitchell and Bates who were less expensive. Vice Chairman Methot stated that his decision wasn't based on price but on legal specialty.

Vice Chairman Methot moved, Selectman Kurk seconded to award legal services to Mitchell and Bates. Passed 5-0-0.

Chairman Buono moved, Selectman Fiala seconded to extend the Centrix contract for telephone service for 5 years. Passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Christensen updated the Board that he has placed a call into Cartographics and asked them to send an updated proposal with new numbers for review.

Mr. Christensen updated the Board on the Building Maintenance Master Plan and handed out documentation to the Board. Mr. Christensen stated that he has been working with Mr. Malcolm Wright on collecting estimates to have a contractor come in and complete the work on identified town properties.

Selectman Kurk and Selectman Osborne reflected on the last Cable Committee meeting and it was discussed that there is a lot of equipment that is no longer useful. Selectman Kurk asked about all the monitors and boxes in the Conservation Room. Selectman Kurk requested that a letter be sent to the schools to offer the computer equipment just in case they can be useful because the Cable Committee wants to clear out the room of all unusable equipment. Mr. Christensen stated that once all unusable equipment has been collected then a date for final removal will be set.

Selectman Kurk would like to get together again with PARC – with July 13 or July 20 being suggested as possible dates.

Selectman Kurk stated that a suggestion was made to post all available openings for committees and boards and the Board needs to take action on this matter.

Selectman Kurk spoke of a Letter from Gene Propper to re-install the rock barrier at Abijah Bridge. It was discussed then when Mr. Knapp has time he needs to replace the rocks.

Selectman Kurk stated that she would like to come up with a policy for the town hall sign and how long an item should be allowed to be kept up on the sign. Chairman Buono stated that the individuals who rent the town hall and the Selectman have priority over that sign. It was determined that a policy would be written for the town hall sign.

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Chairman Buono moved, Vice Chairman Methot seconded, to enter into nonpublic session @ 10:05 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3II(c-e). A roll call vote was taken. Vice Chairman Methot - yes; Selectman Osborne - yes; Selectman Kurk - yes; Selectman Fiala - yes; Chairman Buono - yes. Passed 5-0-0.

Vice Chairman Methot moved, Selectman Fiala seconded to come out of non-public session at 10:25 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. Vice Chairman Methot - yes; Selectman Kurk - yes; Selectman Fiala - yes. Passed 3-0-0.

Vice Chairman Methot moved, Selectman Fiala seconded to seal and restrict the minutes of the non-public pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A: 3 III. A roll call vote was taken. Vice Chairman Methot - yes; Selectman Kurk - yes; Selectman Fiala - yes. Passed 3-0-0.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Cherry Palmisano, Recording Secretary